I beg to submit, it is a Utopian thing. If the demand is fixed at a particular level, I can give the period by which we will be self-sufficient. But demand is increasing and as I have already submitted, oil cannot be manufactured in a factory. It has to be explored, it has to be exploited. Infrastructure has to be laid. I want to assure the hon. Member that we are taking all steps in this direction. We were advised that we should slow down our exploratory efforts because oil prices have fallen down, but we did not take to that line. We continued our own efforts with other international companies which I have already submitted by increasing the refining capacity and we have been lucky to strike oil and gas in various parts of the country—east, west, north and south—and we are making efforts. But we will have to lay very huge infrastructure to utilise that The time will come and we will do that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No 123. Shri Ganeshwar Kusum.

Ib Valley Thermal Power Plant

*123. SHRI GANESHWAR KUSUM : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up a coal-based thermal power plant in the Ib Valley in Sambalpur district, Orissa;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the delay in implementing the above proposal; and

(c) what steps are being taken to expedite the establishment of the above thermal power plant ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Planning Commission have, in April, accepted the feasibility of the Ib Valley Thermal Power Project (4 x 210 MW) in Orissa and its inclusion in the State's Seventh Plan. Preliminary works relating to land acquisition, township approach roads, development of water supply and telecommunications etc. are in progress. The Orissa Power Generation Corporation have placed a letter of intent on M/s. BHEL for turn-key execution of the project which is expected to be commissioned in the English Plan.

Contracts awarded to Indian and Foreign Companies by ONGC

124. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI :
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 18th October, 1987 to the effect that a number of Indian and Foreign companies' repreentatives, stationed at Dehra Dun, Bombay and Delhi bribe their way into getting fat orders for their employers and on regular basis and they also entertain and present costly gifts to senior ONGC officials;

(b) if so, whether any investigations have been made in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are the findings thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Government has seen the news item.

(b) and (c) The insinuations made in the news item are rather general and vague; and as such do not warrant any investigation. However, ONGC's rules and procedures are devised to prevent malpractices.

श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी : सभापति जी, मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि जिस प्रकार के परिपत्र प्रतिरक्षा मंत्रालय के सौदो के बारे में हैं कि कोई बिचौलिया नहीं होना चाहिए वैसा कोई परिपत्र पब्लिक अंडरटेकिंग्ज के